



Desert Rose

Editor: LCpl Pollard
S1- Rep
June 2004

Proudly Serving The Families of 3/7



MAJ HENDERSON, BATTALION XO, AND LTCOL LOPEZ,
BATTALION COMMANDER, IRAQ MAY 2004 (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)

In this Issue of the Desert Rose

Comments from the Command
Chaplain's Message
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Battalion Commander: LtCol Lopez
Executive Officer: Maj. Henderson
Sergeant Major: SgtMaj Huff
FRO: 1stLt Huerta
Key Volunteer Coordinator: Mandi Roe
Key Volunteer Advisor: Lynn Lopez



Greetings from Al Qaim,

The Marines, Sailors and Soldiers of Task Force 3/7 are doing an incredible job establishing security and bringing a better life to the people of Al Qaim. We have seen a very violent and dangerous area develop into a relatively peaceful area where governance, Iraqi Security Forces and a blossoming new freedom have been born. This is still Iraq, so we will still face danger and uncertainty in the months to come, but we are well on our way to accomplishing our mission.

On Memorial Day, we were able to pause for a short memorial service held at the 7th Marines Headquarters at Al Asad. We paid tribute to those brave Marines who have been killed in action. We said a prayer for the families and loved ones back home. We asked God's blessing for our continued mission and safe return.

I cannot express in words the absolute dedication and professionalism that the Marines and Sailors of this Task Force have demonstrated over the past four months. The ability to go in harms way on a daily basis yet maintain the compassion and integrity of our values has been truly awe-inspiring. The performance of the individual and small unit leaders has been superb. The ability for the Marine, even while being shot at, to provide security for the children and noncombatants has been the bedrock of our success. The people of Al Qaim know they have no better friend than the Marine. Those that want to disrupt freedom know they have no worse enemy.

I am very proud to be a part of 3/7.

As rumors of our return abound, I assure you - we will keep you informed. All indicators are still pointing towards this being a 7-month deployment. We are still planning our return for mid to late September. Our return will always remain mission dependent!

The highlight of the week is still mail call. It is a little like having Christmas once a week. Everyone seems to know when the convoy rolls in with mail. We all appreciate the packages and letters from home. Now that we have been eating tray rations for 4 months, many Marines subsistence comes in those boxes from loved ones.

Congratulations to all of our newborn! Many of our proud new fathers have been busy showing off pictures.

Until our return!

God, Family, Country And Corps
M. A. Lopez
"Blade Six"



CHAPLAIN'S CHAT



CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

(June 2004)

As I write this article we are almost half way through this deployment. Realizing the lag time in putting the newsletters together, printing and mailing them out, by the time you read this we will be well beyond half way home; perhaps as close as 10 weeks from that much longed for reunion. For some families this time of separation has brought you closer together. For others it may be pulling you apart. Regardless of your situation, all of us could no doubt improve our marriages by spending some quiet time together talking in order to get reacquainted and make some deeper commitments to each other.

After the hugs, kisses, celebrations and vacations are over consider this list of questions as a beginning to the kind of communication that will help you get the best out of your marriage.

- What are three to five things about me that you really like?
- What are two things I do which you wish I would stop doing or change?
- Where are you on your spiritual pilgrimage?
- What do you think is the purpose of your life?
- What is something we could do together in our spare time that we both enjoy?
- What trip have you always dreamed of taking?
- What is your greatest regret about your life?
- How do you feel about how the kids are turning out so far?
- If you could change any one thing about your life what would it be?
- What is one tangible way I could better express my love for you?
- What would you like to be doing in five years? Ten years? Retirement?

It is amazing how little we communicate like this these days. We should not be surprised that we sometimes wonder if we are on the same page as a couple. It is not too early to think about this now. In all the busyness of post-deployment reunion activities, if you do not commit to doing this now it will likely never happen.

Clip this article out of the newsletter and stick it to your refrigerator door. Plan now to turn off the television and talk; really talk. If you honestly and humbly share this time of loving transparency together, it will build a deeper intimacy into your relationship that will also help rekindle and keep aflame the romance in your marriage.

Chaplain Slater

Lt. Dave Slater



COMPANY MESSAGE BOARDS

H & S

"Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor to also the citizen who cares for his brother in the field, and serves, as best he can, the same cause – honor to him, only less than to him, who braves, for the common good, the storms of heaven and storms of battle." - President Abraham Lincoln

I know that some of the news that is written about in these letters is some times not new to some of the families who have already been informed. My goal with these newsletters is to ensure that the entire family of Headquarters and Service Company, those deployed and those supporting us back home, is aware of our experiences. Hopefully, no day will ever be darker for 3d Battalion, 7th Marines than 17 April. On this date, the battalion lost five outstanding Marines in actions against the



Cpl Matthews (right) 3/7 Motor Transport shows Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, Deputy Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific the final product of armoring the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle A2 during his visit to Camp Udairi, Kuwait on Feb. 16.

enemy. One of those fine Marines was Captain Richard Gannon. At the time he was serving as Commanding Officer for Lima Company, but during Operation Iraqi Freedom I, he served as the Commanding Officer for Headquarters and Service Company. Many of you may remember reading his newsletters from last year. Rick was a true professional and a brother to us all. There are many Marines and sailors serving today who owe a

lot of thanks to him for his steadfast leadership and courage. I often consulted with him and sought his advice in how to better execute my duties. He has left our side here, but will always continue to be with us.

Over the weekend of 17 and 18 April, the battalion took to the streets of the town of Husaybah and swept enemy forces out of that area. There are still certainly dangers present and the enemy is still working to disrupt our mission of peace, but things have settled down considerably over the past month to allow somewhat more routine things to take place. The Marines and

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INDIA

Hello India Company rear party! Your Marines out here in western Iraq are doing well and continue to do great things all around. This last month was a pretty rough one with a great deal of activity and some difficult losses in our Battalion. Through it all, our Marines have continued to remain focused on the mission at hand and are determined to stay the course.

Operations in our zone have continued to achieve great success and we are preparing ourselves for the long hot days ahead. Things around the camp are right in line with the upcoming summer heat. We have just gotten new living quarters constructed for the Marines that will include brand new air conditioners when finished. Not too many other changes to report with regards to camp life. We certainly will be glad to get home to a regular shower and a little more variety at meal time.

We were fortunate to receive four new NCOs into our company within the past few days. Corporals Smith, Gilbertson, Larsen and Wentworth joined us from Weapons Company 3/1 and are jumping right into the mix of things like true professionals. We are glad to have them aboard and welcome all the assets that they bring to the team. Additionally, 1stLt MacGregor joined the company from Headquarters Company, RCT 7, and has assumed command of 2nd Platoon.

We were able to recognize the achievements of several of our Marines this last month. Lance Corporal Jensen was awarded a Certificate of Commendation for his action during an operation that netted several high value targets. PFC Barnett was also awarded a Certificate of Commendation for his contributions to the establishment of the company's living quarters. We were also fortunate enough to

(Continued on page 5)

LIMA

Family, friends, and supporters:

I would like to take the time and introduce myself as the new Company Commander. My name is Captain Dominique B. Neal. I was the former executive officer of Lima Company. I started out in Lima as 2d Platoon Commander for 18 months and served as the "XO" for 11 months. It is a humbling honor to have this valuable and precious opportunity to serve your Marines and Sailors. I wish that my assignment to the helm was under better circumstance, but rest assure, I

(Continued on page 8)

deliver a combat meritorious promotion to now Sergeant Hirz of 2nd Platoon. Congratulations goes out to all these Marines and their families. Job well done!

The company saw a few other Marines promoted over the past few weeks. LCpl Spears and Stansbury from 2nd Platoon were promoted to their present rank this past month. Additionally, LCpl Tristan and LCpl Ordonez of our Headquarter and Service Platoon were also promoted on 1 May. These Marines have received the rank that their performance has indicated for some time now and are to be congratulated.

As always, I want to tell you all how much I appreciate the support that you give to us, while we are deployed. You all provide the foundation for our success. As we run this race marked out for us, we do so under the grace of a loving God and the support of loving families. Thank you all for what you do and who you are. Take care and God bless.

B. W. TIPPETT



WEAPONS COMPANY

Our Dear Friends and Families,

Once again, Salaam Alachem from the hardworking Marines and Sailors of Weapons Company. As the days continue to rapidly pass by us, it gives me great pleasure to report to you once again on the fine performance and commitment that your sons are displaying during our Battalion's operations in Al Qaim, Iraq. Despite the increasing temperature, and dust storms, our Company maintains steady focus in continuing to bring peace to our region. We are all truly working well with each other; the "kinks" that hindered us at times are gone and I feel that things are moving at an optimal level.

Our mission continues to remain the same-conduct security and humanitarian operations that will promote the proper conditions for Iraqi self-governance. Weapons Company is playing a huge part in this effort. Our Combined Anti-Armor Teams are working diligently with Iraqi Police by conducting joint patrolling programs as well as facilitating the distribution of Humanitarian assistance products. Our presence continues to stifle the activities of Mujahadeen forces operating in our Area of Operations and the promotion of our Humanitarian efforts in Al Qaim is making a huge difference in the way the Iraqi people perceive us. They are very happy to have us with them and they tell us how much they appreciate the opportunity to live in a safe and positive community. Your sons and husbands are the reason that this is happening and you should feel overwhelmed with pride with the purpose here.

On April 17, our Battalion conducted a major combat operation in the town of Husaybah, Iraq. We achieved tremendous success during the battle for Husaybah and your loved ones were incredibly brave during the 30-hour engagement with the enemy. Two of our Marines were wounded during this engagement, Cpl Friedman and Cpl Zerfoss. Whiskey Company wishes you both a healthy and speedy recovery from your wounds and we look forward to seeing you back in the stumps. Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of Capt. Richard Gannon, Cpl. Christopher Gibson, LCpl Ruben Valdez, LCpl Christopher Smith, and LCpl Gary Van Leuven. They were all outstanding Marines and great people who will never be forgotten.

Pfc Patenge unfortunately received wounds from a roadside bomb on May 10. He was in great spirits when he left and we are happy to hear that he is doing well. Continued prayers and thoughts go out to the families of GySgt French and SSgt Kelley- please give them a call and drop them a note and support our Weapons Company family. We would like to wish the

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KILO

Due to operational commitments Company K was not able to provide a column for this month's newsletter. Please continue to write your Marine/ Sailor as often as possible.



Contacts

KV Coordinator: Mandi Roe

KV Advisor: Lynn Lopez

H&S: Sheila Blazer

India: Betty McIver & Kamey Tippet

Kilo: Sabrina Salcido

Lima: Amber Jaramillo & Lara Palmer

Weapons: Faith Longoria

Please call between the hours of 8 a.m.— 9 p.m. Thank you!

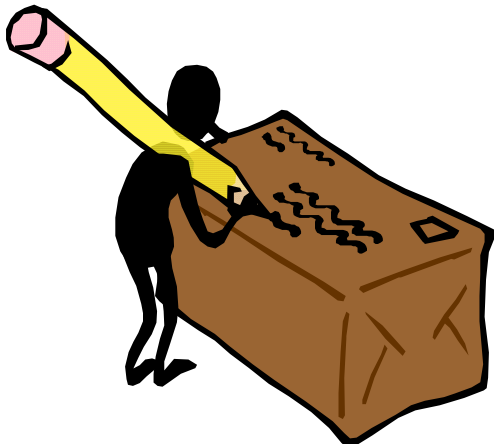
(760) 830-7345

37fro@29palms.usmc.mil

Preparing Packages

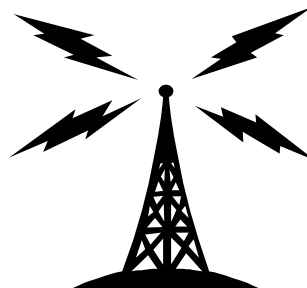
Packages from home are very special to our deployed Marines. Here is the proper protocol for preparing those packages from the United States Postal Service.

- Choose a box with enough room for cushioning material around the contents. Cardboard works best however old alcohol or cigarette boxes cannot be shipped.
- Print the delivery address parallel to the longest side of the packages with a pen or permanent marker so that the address is legible from an arm's length away. Print the return address in the upper left corner on the same side of the packages as the delivery address.
- Tape the opening of your box and reinforce all seams with clear, 2" wide tape. Do not use duct tape.
- Place a strip of clear packaging tape over your label to prevent the address from smearing.



- Placing an extra address label with the delivery and return addresses inside the packages will ensure it will be delivered in case the outside labels are damaged or fall off.
- Packages heavier than 70 pounds cannot be mailed.

Care Packages Mailing Days at the MCX:
Thursday, June 24



Alert!

If your loved one is seriously injured you will be notified by the Family Readiness Officer (FRO) within 24 hours of him receiving the information. Don't believe the so-called "prank" phone calls that anything has happened to your Marine or Sailor. Report such activity to your local police department immediately. Trust only what you hear from your Key Volunteer, the FRO, or from your loved one.

HOUSING FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THEIR WEBSITE AT
<http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/inl/housing/HsgMain.asp>.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET YOU CAN CONTACT THE REMAIN BEHIND ELEMENT AT BUILDING 1430 TO PICK UP THE NECESSARY FORMS. EXTENDED VISITORS PASS, ABSENCE FROM QUARTERS, ETC. ()

Next KV meetings will be held on June 28th and July 26th. Please contact your KV for more information.

CONDOLENCE LETTERS CAN BE SENT TO FAMILIES AT THE BELOW ADDRESS:

CPL DUNHAM, JASON
C/O
SSGT LEAR
3 PORTER AVENUE
BUFFALO, NY 14201

MAJ GANNON, RICHARD
GANNON FAMILY
3104 B UPSHUR AVE
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92278

CPL GIBSON, CHRISTOPHER
SSGT MAXWELL
1ST TANK BN
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92278

PFC MORRIS, RICKY
C/O
CAPT TEAGUE, C
301 EAST REGIS STREET SUITE 1137
LUBBOCK, TX 79403

PFC SMITH, BRANDON
C/O
GYSGT NIGOLIAN, JON K
8005 CAMP ROBINSON RD.
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AK 72118-2206

LCPL SMITH, MICHAEL
C/O
CAPT DEMPSEY
NAVY & MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTER
1600 LAFAYETTE AVE.
MOUNDSVILLE, WA 26041-2347

LCPL TORREZ, ELIAS
TORREZ FAMILY
PO BOX 456
VERIBEST, TX 76886

LCPL VALDEZ, RUBEN
C/O
SSGT OSWALT
1ST TANK BN
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92278

LCPL VANLEUVEN, GARY
VAN LEUVEN FAMILY
PO BOX 1453
COOS BAY, OR 97420

LCPL WASSER, CHRISTOPHER
WASSER FAMILY
432 S ELM
OTTAWA, KS 66067



Marines scheduled to return in June.

BROWN JR, TD	LCPL
KEYES, JB	CPL
GARCIA, BM	LCPL
WEATHERBY, KM	CPL
LAMBRIGHT, CB	CPL
VALERIO, AR	CPL
GREEN, CE	CPL
CARTER, JM	PFC
GODLEY, JL	LCPL

Remain Behind Element NCOIC: Sgt Palzkill, T. (760) 830-6661

Need orders? Contact 1st Marine Detachment at (760) 830-5824

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND ADDRESS UPDATES—
LCPL POLLARD AT (760) 830-5305

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AND THE LATEST BATTALION NEWS STORIES CLICK ON:
www.29palms.usmc.mil/fmf/3-7/default.asp

UPDATED HOTLINE NUMBER:	1-800-759-7602
HOUSING OFFICE:	830-6611
AMERICAN RED CROSS	830-6685
CAREER RESOURCE CENTER	830-7225
CHAPLINS (BASE)	830-6304
DEERS (ID CARDS)	830-7326
IPAC	830-1818
LEGAL	830-6111
NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY	830-6323

NAVAL HOSPITAL 29PALMS	830-2190
BETHESDA MEDICAL CENTER (MD)	301-295-6111
BALBOA MEDICAL CENTER (CA)	619-532-6104
WILLFORD HALL (TX)	210-671-1130
LANDSHUTL GERMANY	01149-6371-86-6677

will serve these men well.

Over the last three months, our camp has made tremendous progress working with the local civilian populous. In a matter of a few months, our Marines and Sailors are conducting joint patrols with the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, the Iraqi Police Department, and the Iraqi Border Police. Everyday of their lives are dedicated in ensuring peace and stability through out the city and building strong relationships with the people. With the last month of turbulent times, Team Lima has proven to be incredibly resilient. On 15 May 2004, the Company supported the Battalion in handing out over a thousand soccer balls, pencils, and assorted toys to the children living in Husaybah. The reception from the populous was extremely high. Congratulations to Lance A. Carmouche of Lima Company, 2d Platoon for his promotion to Corporal.

Quality of life in the Camp has increased tremendously. Air conditioning will be available as the temperatures increase. Showers are modest convenience. Marines during their down time have the opportunity to play basketball or horseshoes. Every living area has a television, DVD player, refrigerator, and some areas have Play Station 2. Although these items seem like luxuries, understand the fact that your Marines deserve them for their outstanding work.



In closing, I would like to thank you for the incredible support we have already received. The letters and care packages constantly roll in, and your words of encouragement go a long way. Lastly, I would like to dedicate everything our team accomplishes to Major Gannon, Cpl Gibson, LCpl Smith, LCpl Vanleuven, and LCpl Valdez who died as heroes in action against the enemy while serving with Team Lima. Their bravery and relentless dedication to duty is an inspiration to us all. Their sacrifices will not be forgotten.

D. B. NEAL

best of luck to our departing Marines who will be completing their service with the Marine Corps in June. Sgt Edwards, Sgt Krueger, Cpl Cabral, LCpl Hanson and LCpl Seigel-please stay in touch with us...you all did an outstanding job with our Company. Gunnery Sergeant Holland unfortunately took third place in the first annual Camp Al Qaim knitting contest. Hang in there Gunny, there's always next year.

We will continue to work hard at our mission and it is great to know that we have your support. We ask that you please support each other by picking up that phone or sending that e-mail out to another member of our network and get to know some of the families of 3/7. We will be home before you know it...take care and Semper Fidelis.

T.R. POWLEDGE





sailors at Camp Al Qa'im now have three basketball hoops located around the base. Almost immediately upon their receipt, competition amongst base personnel started. There have been two tournaments held thus far and many more are expected in the future. Athletic competition is always great to keep the time moving and the camp is hoping to have more such events with softball and flag football in the future. A battalion soccer team is being put together under the guise of First Lieutenant Michael Kaniuk to play some local Iraqi teams. The battalion was soundly beaten last year in Karbala, so we hope to perform a little better this time around.

The personnel of Headquarters and Service Company continue to perform exceptionally well and are properly being awarded for their efforts. Lance Corporals John J. Frawley III, Robert J. Millar, and Brian A. Bova were awarded Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals for their continuous and untiring efforts to support the Battalion Operations Section. Petty Officer Demetrius M. Hartsfield, for his superb actions in supporting the Battalion Aid Station's mission during our short stay in 29 Palms after the last deployment, and then-Corporal Robert J. Matthews, for his initiative in preparing vehicles to support the battalion's operations in Iraq, were also awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Two Staff Non-

commissioned Officers were awarded medals for their inspired efforts with their previous commands. Staff Sergeant Omar Mombille was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and Gunnery Sergeant Timothy Perez was presented the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

Much deserved promotions were given to a number of Marines. Robert J. Matthews' dedication to mission accomplishment resulted in his meritorious promotion to Sergeant on 15 May (his date of rank will be 2 May). New Corporals as of 1 May are Eric R. Holomon and Pablo Deleon Jr. Also on that day, Jason R. Barter, Justin S. Holt, Michael A. Ordonez, and Lonnie F. Vega were promoted to Lance Corporal.

Last year when the battalion deployed, the Marine Corps had put into place the policies of Stop-Move and Stop-Loss. These policies meant that Marines who had orders to report to new units or had reached the end of their obligated service were required to remain with their current units and deploy to support operations. This time around, those policies are not in effect. Each month we will begin to say goodbye to a number of Marines as they depart to start a new phase of their life. The command's goal is to get these individuals back to 29 Palms at least one month before they are scheduled to move or depart the Marine Corps. I'd like to extend my appreciation to Staff Sergeant Tylon L. Wilder, Sergeant Michael K. Podbevsek, Corporals Jimmie B. King and Daniel Ramirez, and Lance Corporal Gerald M. Cobian for their service to their country as United States Marines. Staff Sergeant Wilder was a recent addition to us from Lima Company and was instrumental in improving convoy execution for the Logistics Section. He will be departing the Marine Corps after eight years of dedicated service in order to look after his two young girls. Sergeant Podbevsek is looking to get back on his farm and get a job at the county jail. Corporal King will be looking to transfer his skills from working with 7-ton trucks to working on Caterpillar Engines. Corporal Ramirez is looking forward to going to college part-time while working as a welder for an oil company in Texas. Lance Corporal Cobian is excited about having a little more freedom in what he does and enjoying life with his wife. Good luck to these warriors and a special thanks to their families for allowing them to be a part of the finest military unit in the world.

I would also like to say a fond farewell to Gunnery Sergeant Jimmy Cortez. Although, I guess it's not that much of a farewell. He is still living in the room next to mine, but he has now been assigned as a Platoon Sergeant with Weapons Company. He has replaced Staff Sergeant John W. Kelley who is now a welcome addition to the Battalion Operations Section. Another new addition is Captain Rory Quinn. Captain Quinn is an Infantry Officer who just finished a tour as an instructor at The Basic School. He is currently serving as a Watch Officer in the Battalion Operations Section. Without a doubt, the most significant addition to our company is Staff Sergeant Kevin F. Kersey. Staff Sergeant Kersey is an electrician on loan to us from Okinawa. Since his arrival, many potential electrical hazards have been fixed and many Marines and sailors now have lights and air conditioning to boast of because of his tireless efforts.

Last year in Karbala, the battalion did not have any air conditioning. This year everyone is much better off. We recently purchased 98 window units and are in the process of getting almost 200 more. The temperatures are now starting to top 120 degrees, but it is a dry heat and has not become unbearable, yet. Recently, some Marines and sailors had a chance to beat the heat when an unplanned pond appeared on the camp. Somewhat funny story: The Marine Corps has a very large armored bulldozer that is known as the D-9. Some of the engineers on our camp were using the D-9 to loosen up dirt that was used to fill protective barriers. The wrong place was picked for digging. The D-9 broke a water pipe that supplies our camp with water, but no one knew this because we were having problems with getting the water on a regular basis at that time and no water was flowing. Once we finally fixed the problem with getting the water sent to us, we still weren't getting much water and swore that we were getting played with by the local water plant. Turns out the water was coming to us. It just happened to be collecting where the D-9 had previously dug and not in our water tank. A pond the size of a Winnebago was created and Marines like Staff Sergeant Joseph Mallicoat and First Lieutenant David M. Casey were brave enough to test it out and let everyone know that the water was fine. Once the problem was found, we set to drain the pond and have local Iraqis come in to replace the pipe. We are happily receiving our local supply again, although to the dismay of some recreational swimmers.

There are actually too many changes in the camp to address them all, but they are all for the better. The Marines of 8th Engineer Support Battalion that are attached to our battalion have built a small village of long sea huts (made out of 2x4s and plywood) where tents used to be. The Post Office and Post Exchange are moving into their permanent homes (sea huts) as well. Life keeps getting a little better here and a lot of it is directly due to the continued great support from all of the families and friends. I can never say it enough. Your support is a combat multiplier and makes it much easier to accomplish and enjoy mission success. Keep up the good work on the home front. If you are the wife of a Marine or sailor and are interested in other ways to support us, then please contact our Key Volunteer Coordinator Sheila Blazer for more information at (760) 368-3162.

It is a true honor to serve your sons, husbands, and fathers as their Commanding Officer.
— Captain Barron Mills

P.S. Rumor has it we are getting ice cream tonight for the first time, chocolate and strawberry.



Special thanks to Corporal Chavarria, the RBE Marines and the KV's for helping raise money for the Battalion Birthday Ball. Cpl Chavarria and crew had their first of many more to come car washes and bake sale at Felix Field on June 3rd. They coordinated a car wash on short notice and had several KV's come out to assist by bringing baked goods to sell. The RBE will continue to have car washes until the Battalion returns from deployment. If interested in helping out or donating baked goods please contact Cpl Chavarria at 830-7345 or your KV rep. The next planned bake sale and car wash will be the week of 16 July.

Cpl Ramirez, Battalion Ammo Chief, returned to CONUS after spending 8 months in Iraq during OIF I and 4 months for OIF II. He plans on returning back to Texas to work as a customs agent. He will EAS from the Marine Corps after 4 years of faithful service. This is Cpl Ramirez's 3rd deployment with 3/7 (Okinawa in 2001).

229TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

Dear 3/7 Family and Friends,

November 11th is fast approaching. We will be celebrating the 229th Birthday Ball at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada this year. The hotel has blocked 450 rooms for our use (more rooms can be made available if we need them). We will enjoy a one-hour open bar and a buffet style dinner in the Grand Ballroom. You can take a virtual tour of the Grand Ballroom at www.tropicalnav.com. Hawaiian Rooms #1 and #2 are just across the hall and will be available for an on site baby-sitting service. We are raising money through our soda mess fund and donations in order to offset the cost of food, party favors, music, audio-visual, and labor. The Ball will be held on Thursday November 11, 2004 from 6:00PM-11:00PM. You may begin reserving rooms now (Tropicana reservations 1-800-634-4000). Indicate that you are reserving a room for the **USMC Birthday Ball-3rd Battalion, 7th Marines**. The rates are as follows:

Single/Double Occupancy or one bedroom suite

Wednesday	November 10, 2004	\$49.00	\$209.00
Thursday	November 11, 2004	\$49.00	\$209.00
Friday	November 12, 2004	\$99.00	\$249.00
Saturday	November 13, 2004	\$99.00	\$249.00

If you have any questions, please contact me at fleming92@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Semper Fidelis,
J. David Fleming
1stLt USMC

UPCOMING EVENTS ON BASE

Commanding General's Intramural Soccer

June 14 - July 31, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Felix Field

Challenger Soccer Camp

June 21 - 25, 8 - 11 a.m.
Base Soccer Fields

"Read for the Gold"

Summer Reading Program

Jun 17 - Jul 22
Lifelong Learning Library

Letters to the editor:

If you have questions or comments that you would like to share, please send them to the below address. Please try to keep your comments under 100 words.

Please send your comments to:
Battalion Newsletter
Attn: FRO
3rd Bn, 7th Marines
Box 788263
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278

